## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 3, cancel claims 4-25, without prejudice, and add new claims 26-79, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

**Claim 1 (original):** A photodiode comprising:

a conductive film having: an aperture having a diameter smaller than wavelength of incident light, and a periodic structure provided around said aperture for producing a resonant state by an excited surface plasmon in a film surface of said conductive film by means of the incident light to said film surface; and

a semiconductor layer provided in a vicinity of said aperture of said conductive film and in contact with said conductive film;

wherein said photodiode detects near-field light that is generated at an interface between said conductive film and said semiconductor layer by said excited surface plasmon.

**Claim 2 (original):** The photodiode according to claim 1, wherein said conductive film is a metal film through which said incident light does not pass at locations other than said aperture.

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** The photodiode according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein a region in which a Schottky barrier formed by said conductive film and said semiconductor layer appears substantially matches a region of generation of said near-field light.

**Claims 4-25 (canceled)**

**Claim 26 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 2, wherein a region in which a Schottky barrier formed by said conductive film and said semiconductor layer appears substantially matches a region of generation of said near-field light.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

**Claim 27 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 1, wherein said periodic structure is composed of surface irregularities having a period in a direction of increasing distance from said aperture.

**Claim 28 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 2, wherein said periodic structure is composed of surface irregularities having a period in a direction of increasing distance from said aperture.

**Claim 29 (new):** A photodiode comprising:

a conductive film having a first surface and a second surface and including: an aperture having a diameter smaller than wavelength of incident light that is formed from said first surface side; and a periodic structure composed of surface irregularities having a period in a direction of increasing distance from said aperture;

a first semiconductor layer of one conductive type provided in a vicinity of said aperture of said conductive film and in contact with the second surface of said conductive film; and

a second semiconductor layer of said one conductive type in which concentration of impurities is higher than in said first semiconductor layer, and which contacts a surface of said first semiconductor layer that is opposite to another surface in contact with the second surface of said conductive film.

**Claim 30 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein said conductive film is composed of a metal film, and said surface irregularities are formed in said first surface.

**Claim 31 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein said periodic structure is composed of concentric grooves that take said aperture as center.

**Claim 32 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, further comprising:

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

a first electrode electrically connected to said first semiconductor layer and a second electrode electrically connected to said conductive film for applying a reverse bias voltage for forming a Schottky barrier in a vicinity of a junction with said conductive film of said second semiconductor layer;

wherein a thickness of said second semiconductor layer interposed between said first semiconductor layer and said conductive film is equal to or less than a length of bleeding of near-field light that appears on said first-surface side at a location of said aperture when light is irradiated onto said conductive film from said second surface.

**Claim 33 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 30, further comprising:

a first electrode electrically connected to said first semiconductor layer and a second electrode electrically connected to said conductive film for applying a reverse bias voltage for forming a Schottky barrier in a vicinity of a junction with said conductive film of said second semiconductor layer;

wherein a thickness of said second semiconductor layer interposed between said first semiconductor layer and said conductive film is equal to or less than a length of bleeding of near-field light that appears on said first-surface side at a location of said aperture when light is irradiated onto said conductive film from said second surface.

**Claim 34 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 31, further comprising:

a first electrode electrically connected to said first semiconductor layer and a second electrode electrically connected to said conductive film for applying a reverse bias voltage for forming a Schottky barrier in a vicinity of a junction with said conductive film of said second semiconductor layer;

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

wherein a thickness of said second semiconductor layer interposed between said first semiconductor layer and said conductive film is equal to or less than a length of bleeding of near-field light that appears on said first-surface side at a location of said aperture when light is irradiated onto said conductive film from said second surface.

**Claim 35 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein said aperture has a bottom surface portion that is a part of said conductive film.

**Claim 36 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 30, wherein said aperture has a bottom surface portion that is a part of said conductive film.

**Claim 37 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 31, wherein said aperture has a bottom surface portion that is a part of said conductive film.

**Claim 38 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein a scattering member composed of a conductive material for scattering light is arranged in said aperture.

**Claim 39 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 30, wherein a scattering member composed of a conductive material for scattering light is arranged in said aperture.

**Claim 40 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 31, wherein a scattering member composed of a conductive material for scattering light is arranged in said aperture.

**Claim 41 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 35, comprising a scattering member composed of conductive material for scattering light, said scattering member being embedded in said second semiconductor layer side from an interface between said bottom surface portion and said second semiconductor layer corresponding to the position of said aperture.

**Claim 42 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 36, comprising a scattering member composed of conductive material for scattering light, said scattering member being embedded

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

in said second semiconductor layer side from an interface between said bottom surface portion and said second semiconductor layer corresponding to the position of said aperture.

**Claim 43 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 37, comprising a scattering member composed of conductive material for scattering light, said scattering member being embedded in said second semiconductor layer side from an interface between said bottom surface portion and said second semiconductor layer corresponding to the position of said aperture.

**Claim 44 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein said aperture penetrates said conductive film and reaches said second semiconductor layer, and of said conductive film, a periphery around said aperture contacts said second semiconductor layer.

**Claim 45 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 30, wherein said aperture penetrates said conductive film and reaches said second semiconductor layer, and of said conductive film, a periphery around said aperture contacts said second semiconductor layer.

**Claim 46 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 31, wherein said aperture penetrates said conductive film and reaches said second semiconductor layer, and of said conductive film, a periphery around said aperture contacts said second semiconductor layer.

**Claim 47 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 44, wherein a scattering member composed of a conductive material for scattering light is embedded in a surface of said second semiconductor layer corresponding to the position of said aperture.

**Claim 48 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 45, wherein a scattering member composed of a conductive material for scattering light is embedded in a surface of said second semiconductor layer corresponding to the position of said aperture.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

**Claim 49 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 46, wherein a scattering member composed of a conductive material for scattering light is embedded in a surface of said second semiconductor layer corresponding to the position of said aperture.

**Claim 50 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein a transparent film having an index of refraction substantially equal to that of said second semiconductor layer is provided on said first surface of said conductive film.

**Claim 51 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 30, wherein a transparent film having an index of refraction substantially equal to that of said second semiconductor layer is provided on said first surface of said conductive film.

**Claim 52 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 31, wherein a transparent film having an index of refraction substantially equal to that of said second semiconductor layer is provided on said first surface of said conductive film.

**Claim 53 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 50, further comprising an antireflection film for incident light provided on said transparent film.

**Claim 54 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 51, further comprising an antireflection film for incident light provided on said transparent film.

**Claim 55 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 52, further comprising an antireflection film for incident light provided on said transparent film.

**Claim 56 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 29, wherein said conductive film is a metal film and the diameter of said aperture is at least 1/10 but no greater than 1/2 the wavelength of said incident light.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

**Claim 57 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 30, wherein said conductive film is a metal film and the diameter of said aperture is at least 1/10 but no greater than 1/2 the wavelength of said incident light.

**Claim 58 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 31, wherein said conductive film is a metal film and the diameter of said aperture is at least 1/10 but no greater than 1/2 the wavelength of said incident light.

**Claim 59 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 56, wherein the period of said periodic structure is equal to or less than the wavelength of said incident light.

**Claim 60 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 57, wherein the period of said periodic structure is equal to or less than the wavelength of said incident light.

**Claim 61 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 58, wherein the period of said periodic structure is equal to or less than the wavelength of said incident light.

**Claim 62 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 56, wherein the period of said periodic structure is set to a resonant wavelength of the surface plasmon excited on said conductive film by said incident light.

**Claim 63 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 57, wherein the period of said periodic structure is set to a resonant wavelength of the surface plasmon excited on said conductive film by said incident light.

**Claim 64 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 58, wherein the period of said periodic structure is set to a resonant wavelength of the surface plasmon excited on said conductive film by said incident light.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

**Claim 65 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 56, wherein said metal film has a thickness no greater than 1000 nm but at least 100 nm at concave portions of said periodic structure, and a depth of said surface irregularities is at least 20 nm but no greater than 200 nm.

**Claim 66 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 57, wherein said metal film has a thickness no greater than 1000 nm but at least 100 nm at concave portions of said periodic structure, and a depth of said surface irregularities is at least 20 nm but no greater than 200 nm.

**Claim 67 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 58, wherein said metal film has a thickness no greater than 1000 nm but at least 100 nm at concave portions of said periodic structure, and a depth of said surface irregularities is at least 20 nm but no greater than 200 nm.

**Claim 68 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 32, wherein a thickness of said second semiconductor layer interposed between said first semiconductor layer and said conductive film is at least 50 nm but no greater than 100 nm.

**Claim 69 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 33, wherein a thickness of said second semiconductor layer interposed between said first semiconductor layer and said conductive film is at least 50 nm but no greater than 100 nm.

**Claim 70 (new):** The photodiode according to claim 34, wherein a thickness of said second semiconductor layer interposed between said first semiconductor layer and said conductive film is at least 50 nm but no greater than 100 nm.

**Claim 71 (new):** A method for fabricating a photodiode which has a conductive film having an aperture and periodic surface irregularities that takes said aperture as center, and a semiconductor layer joined to said conductive film at a position of a bottom of said aperture, the method comprising the steps of:

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

defining and forming said semiconductor layer such that a region for carrying out photoelectric conversion is limited to a position corresponding to the bottom of said aperture;

forming said conductive film; and

forming said aperture and said surface irregularities in said conductive film such that said aperture and said surface irregularities are matched to said region.

**Claim 72 (new):** An optical module comprising:

a photodiode according to claim 1 for detecting signal light emitted from an optical fiber to supply it as an electrical signal; and

a preamplifier for amplifying the electrical signal.

**Claim 73 (new):** An optical module comprising:

a photodiode according to claim 29 for detecting signal light emitted from an optical fiber to supply it as an electrical signal; and

a preamplifier for amplifying the electrical signal.

**Claim 74 (new):** The optical module according to claim 72, comprising:

a case; and

an optical coupler for optically coupling said optical fiber and said photodiode;

wherein said photodiode and said preamplifier are accommodated in said case.

**Claim 75 (new):** The optical module according to claim 73, comprising:

a case; and

an optical coupler for optically coupling said optical fiber and said photodiode;

wherein said photodiode and said preamplifier are accommodated in said case.

**Claim 76 (new):** An optical interconnection module comprising:

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

a photodiode according to claim 1 for receiving incidence of light emitted from a first optical fiber to generate a first signal current;

a light source for generating a signal light that is irradiated into a second optical fiber; and

a mounting board on which said photodiode and said light source are arranged;

wherein said first signal current is supplied to an LSI, and said light source generates the signal light in accordance with the second signal current from said LSI.

**Claim 77 (new):** An optical interconnection module comprising:

a photodiode according to claim 29 for receiving incidence of light emitted from a first optical fiber to generate a first signal current;

a light source for generating a signal light that is irradiated into a second optical fiber; and

a mounting board on which said photodiode and said light source are arranged;

wherein said first signal current is supplied to an LSI, and said light source generates the signal light in accordance with the second signal current from said LSI.

**Claim 78 (new):** The optical interconnection module according to claim 76, further comprising:

a first optical coupler for optically coupling said first optical fiber and said photodiode; and

a second optical coupler for optically coupling said light source and said second optical fiber.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

**Claim 79 (new):** The optical interconnection module according to claim 77, further comprising:

a first optical coupler for optically coupling said first optical fiber and said photodiode; and

a second optical coupler for optically coupling said light source and said second optical fiber.

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567